

1. Alamitos Bay A, B, C, D, E, F			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Yes	Los Alamitos Bay has as a side embayment one of only three remaining salt marshes found in Los Angeles County, a remnant of extensive salt marshes once found in its area. (The other marshes are in the Ballona Wetlands and Malibu Lagoon off Santa Monica Bay.) It is the type habitat of Belding's Savannah Sparrow, an endangered species, which is still found in the much reduced habitat of the salt marshes of Southern California, including the salt marsh area of Los Alamitos Bay.
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	Salt marsh is much reduced and fragmented from its former coverage in Southern California, so it is important to preserve any of these important estuarine areas.
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	Los Alamitos Bay is one of only two remaining salt marshes found in Los Angeles County, a remnant of extensive salt marshes once found in its area.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The Belding's Savannah Sparrow lives its entire life in salt marshes and accomplishes breeding, resting, feeding in this area. Salt marshes are important nursery grounds for many marine animals, and diminished fisheries for many are attributed to the loss of salt marshes. Salt marshes are important habitat for migrating marine birds, who utilize the abundant forage produced by the marsh in the form of mud animals and insects.
E	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.	Yes	As one of only two salt marshes in Los Angeles County, this area is scientifically interesting for study of island biogeography in that salt marshes are now islands, whereas they were once almost continuous in the seismically active coastline of Southern California.

F	<p>Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.</p>	Yes	<p>Los Alamitos Bay is one of only two remaining salt marshes found in Los Angeles County, a remnant of extensive salt marshes once found in its area. The majority of this habitat type has been lost to urbanization, flood control projects, harbors, and marinas. Salt marshes are a very productive vegetative community and an important breeding and nursery area for marine, marsh, and terrestrial animals—an ecotone where multiple habitats meet and combine resident biota. Many commercially valuable fish start life in salt marshes.</p>
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